

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stefan U. Koschmieder (reg. # 50,238) on 11/12/2009.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 31, line 1 the word "the" prior to the words "silica glass" has been substituted by - - "The".
4. Withdrawn claims 8-11 have been cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

A review of Applicant's arguments in the Paper filed 7/10/2009 and a review of the instant claims has convinced the examiner that the claims are allowable over the applied prior art of record.
6. Regarding independent claims 1 and 7 and the dependent claims, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a silica glass crucible where at least an outer surface of the wall part of the crucible is covered with fine grooves having a length of from 10 μm to 200 μm , a width of from 10 μm to 30 μm and a depth of from more than 3 μm to less than 30 μm ; wherein a sliding frictional coefficient of the outer surface of the crucible to the graphite susceptor at 1500°C is more than 0.6 and wherein the outer surface of the

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crucible has projections having a height of 0.1 mm or more and the number of projections is an average of less than 5 /mm² per unit area on the outer surface of the crucible and fine grooves exist on more than 10% of the whole outer surface of the crucible (claim 7).

7. The closest prior art of Sarno (US 4,403,955) teaches a silica glass crucible for growing crystals having a wall part, an open diameter, an inner surface, an outer surface with a silica glass inner member and a graphite susceptor adhered to the outer surface of the silica glass crucible, however, fails to expressly disclose a crucible with the claimed grooves and surface properties.

8. The secondary references of record do not teach or suggest the combined limitations not taught by Sarno (US 4,403,955).

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brent T. O'Hern whose telephone number is (571)272-0496. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 9:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brent T. O'Hern/
Examiner, Art Unit 1794
November 12, 2009